REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 4-9, 11-13, 15-17, 19, 21, 23, 24, 26, 27, 32 and 34-38 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 2, 6, 9, 11, 12, 16, 19, 26, 27, 32, and 36 are amended, and claims 3, 10, 14, 15, 18, 20, 22, 25, 28-31 and 33 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter therein. No new matter is added. Reconsideration in view of the above amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

Unless otherwise indicated in the remarks set forth below, the amendments to the claims are made for the purpose of correcting informalities and/or to more clearly define the claimed invention, and are not made for the purpose of overcoming the cited art.

Applicant appreciates the courtesies extended to Applicant's representative, René A. Vázquez, during the November 9, 2004 personal interview. The substance of the personal interview is incorporated in the remarks set forth below.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-5 and 13-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,429,834 to Kanazawa et al. (hereinafter "Kanazawa") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,430,458 to Weber (hereinafter "Weber") and U.S. Patent No. 6,242,860 to Sasao et al. (hereinafter "Sasao"). Claims 3, 14, 15, 18 and 20 have been canceled, and thus their rejection is now moot. The rejection of claims 1, 3, 4, 13, 16, 17 and 19 is respectfully traversed.

Independent claim 1 recites, *inter alia*, scanning/sustaining electrodes provided at each discharge cell for sequentially causing a second auxiliary discharge and an address discharge in the address interval, and at least two dummy electrodes, being provided at the non-display area outside an effective display part of the plasma display panel, for causing a first auxiliary discharge that supplies the non-display and display areas with charged particles in the address interval. As

discussed during the personal interview, neither Kanazawa, Weber or Sasao, taken alone or in combination, teaches or suggests such features or the claimed combination.

As discussed during the personal interview, the two electrodes in Kanazawa that the Examiner asserts are dummy electrodes are actually transparent electrodes formed on the X and Y electrodes for reducing the resistance of the X and Y electrodes. Further, those electrodes (23a and 23b) are formed within the discharge space 26 for display. Thus, they are formed within the effective display area of the plasma display panel.

Further, because electrodes 23a and 23b are not "dummy electrodes," as recited in claim 1, there is certainly no teaching or suggestion as to at least two dummy electrodes causing a first auxiliary discharge in the address interval, while the scanning/sustaining electrodes sequentially provide a second auxiliary discharge and an address discharge in the address interval.

In addition, neither Weber nor Sasao remedy the deficiencies noted in Kanazawa. As discussed during the personal interview, Weber is directed to a system and method for eliminating flicker in displays addressed at low frame rates. Weber teaches applying an address pulse to any one of the address lines while applying dummy address pulses to the rest of the address lines. There is no teaching or suggestion as to the use of dummy electrodes for causing a first auxiliary discharge in the address interval, as recited in claim 1.

In Sasao, dummy electrodes YD1 and YD2 are not used for providing an auxiliary discharge that supplies the non-display areas and display areas with charged particles during an address interval, as recited in claim 1. Rather, electrodes YD1 and YD2 in Sasao are used for "lessening non-linear properties in a peripheral edge region of the plasma display panel" (see

col. 4, lines 15-19). As shown in Figure 4 of Sasao, electrodes YD1 and YD2 are held at $-V_{sc}$ until the last address pulse has been applied.

Accordingly, for at least the reasons set forth above, Applicant respectfully submits that the combination of Kanazawa, Weber and Sasao fail to render obvious the subject matter of independent claim 1. Claims 3, 4, 13, 16, 17 and 19 depend from claim 1, and are thus also allowable for the reasons discussed above with respect to claim 1, as well as for the additional features they recite.

The Office Action rejects claims 6-12 and 21-38 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,181,305 to Nguyen et al. (hereinafter "Nguyen"), in view of Weber and Sasao. Claims 22, 25, 38-31 and 33 have been canceled, and thus their rejection is now moot. The rejection of claims 6-12, 21, 23, 24, 26, 27 and 32 is respectfully traversed.

Independent claims 6, 9, 12, 27 and 32 all recite, *inter alia*, dummy electrodes for causing a first auxiliary discharge in the address interval, and scanning/sustaining electrodes for causing a second auxiliary discharge in the address interval and an address discharge in the address interval. Neither Nguyen, Weber or Sasao, taken alone or in combination, teach or suggest these features or the claimed combination.

As discussed during the personal interview, Nguyen discloses a plasma display panel with pairs of sustain electrodes X and Y and address electrodes A (see Fig. 1B of Nguyen). However, Nguyen fails to teach or suggest dummy electrodes that are driven to cause a first auxiliary discharge in the address interval and scanning/sustaining electrodes that cause a second auxiliary discharge and an address discharge in the same address interval, as recited in independent

claims 6, 9, 12, 27 and 32. As discussed above, Weber and Sasao fail to remedy these deficiencies.

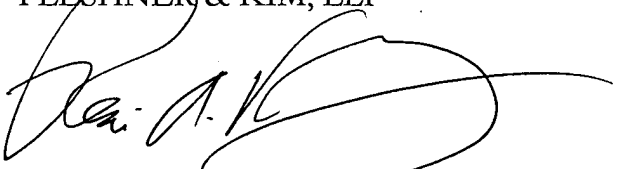
Accordingly, for at least the reasons set forth above, Applicant respectfully submits that the combination of Nguyen, Weber and Sasao fail to render obvious the subject matter of independent claims 6, 9, 12, 27 and 32. Dependent claims 7, 8, 10, 11, 21, 23, 24 and 26 are also allowable for at least the reasons discussed above with respect to independent claims 6, 9, 12, 27 and 32, as well as for the additional features they recite.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited. If the Examiner believes that any additional changes would place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney, **René A. Vázquez, Esq.**, at the telephone number listed below.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this, concurrent and future replies, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 16-0607 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
FLESHNER & KIM, LLP



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